



United States Senate
**Committee on Small Business
and Entrepreneurship**

Olympia J. Snowe, Chair

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<http://sbc.senate.gov>

For Immediate Release:
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**SNOWE, VITTER URGE A "MAXIMUM EFFORT" AND "STRONGEST REMEDIES"
FOR HURRICANE VICTIMS**

*Write SBA Administrator Barreto To Ensure Small Businesses Have Access To Disaster Relief
Loans*

(Washington, DC) – U.S. Senator Olympia J. Snowe (R-Maine) and U.S. Senator David Vitter (R-Louisiana) today urged Hector V. Barreto, Administrator of the Small Business Administration (SBA), "to pursue the strongest administrative and regulatory remedies available" to aid small businesses destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

In the letter, Snowe and Vitter, the Chair, and Member, respectively, of the United States Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, wrote:

"Through its administration of the Federal Disaster Loan program, the SBA leads the effort to provide assistance to homeowners, small businesses, and larger businesses in every natural disaster. These loans are critically important for the area's rebuilding of homes and businesses, providing employment for the hundreds of thousands who have been temporarily displaced, and re-establishing the devastated communities.

"...We urge the Agency to make the maximum effort to work with small businesses to structure loans. Rather than perpetuating bureaucratic obstacles, the Agency should work towards easing the path to rebuilding. We are aware that the SBA's employees have already made great efforts to help victims of the hurricane, and we urge you to continue and even expand those efforts."

Senator Snowe intends to propose a variety of legislative measures in her capacity as Chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, including raising the maximum amount of SBA disaster loans and designating hard-hit areas as HUBzones, which would expand opportunities for small businesses to win federal contracts. Snowe said her Committee will pursue all possibilities of leveraging the authority of the Small Business Administration to provide real relief to those who have been left without the means to restart their futures.

A copy of the letter is attached.

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